

The Cross: The Demonstration of God's Love

Romans 5:6-9

Have you ever watched in entirety one of those television infomercials? At the end, there is usually a demonstration to convince you of the truth of what has been said. Without that demonstration, we would remain skeptical of the claims given. Do you need convincing that God really loves you? Is it hard to believe that you are the apple of God's eye? Paul points us to Calvary, God's demonstration of His love for those who trust Him.

I. God's love is always and only given to those not worthy of His love (v.6).

Our text is clear that God loves, and gave His Son, for **those who see themselves as:**

- (A). **Without strength** . . . this means with complete inability to obtain God's favor.
Your obedience to the law and all efforts to be righteous are fruitless and vain.
- (B). **Ungodly** . . . literally, "*without God.*" Sometimes, the most impious people are the most religious people. The Pharisees loved religion but not Christ who said, "*I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep . . . but ye believe not because ye are not of my sheep; my sheep hear my voice*" (Jn. 10: 11, 26).
- (C). **Sinners** . . . those who have "*missed the mark*" and as a result, have failed in life.
God demonstrates His love and died for only those who freely confess the above.

II. God's love is therefore always selfless, as opposed to human love (v.7).

In vs. 7 Paul begins to describe and compare human love versus divine love.

- (A). **Humans need a very good reason to die for another person.**
 - (1). You more than likely will not die for a stranger (even if he is "approved").
 - (2). You might die for someone you know to be kind or good to you.
- (B). **Humans would never willingly "dare to die" in the place of their enemies.**
"The design of this verse is to show that Christ's dying for ungodly person is an instance of kindness and love that is matchless and unparalleled." **John Gill.**
The love of God is not perceived by the absence of affliction, but by the cross.
"Hereby perceive we the love of God, because He laid down His life for us" **I Jn. 3:16.**
The love of God for the believer was present before conversion. It was before the death of Christ. It was from everlasting (Jer. 31:3). It did not arise because of any loveliness in you, nor because of anything you have done, but from His own sovereign will and pleasure to love you; *and His love drew you out of sin.*
"The love of Christ constrains us" **II Corinthians 5:14.**

III. God's love in our hearts produces the same kind of love for others.

Jesus told his disciples "*By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love one for another*" (Jn. 13:35). Love is the mark of atonement for you.

- (A). **Christian husbands, love your wives as Christ loved you** . . . (Ephesians 5).
- (B). **Christian people, love your enemies** . . . (Romans 12:20).
- (C). **Christian church members, love each other** . . . (I John 4:7-11).

"That God should pity me I understand, because when I walk down a hospital and see a sick child, I pity the child . . . but that God should love me --- the more I think about it, the more staggered I am." **FB Meyer.**